

10 Southwark Gardens London SW
23 March

My dear Gray I need not tell you that I read with great pleasure your encouraging notice of my little Andean paper - I have not succeeded in attracting notice to my speculations among English naturalists & though I have been somewhat pestered on the back by Dr. Haemlein & one or two more on the continent, it is great promotion to be smiled upon by a man of your authority -

I have another small paper going through the press, & have been striving to finish a little book growing out of my S. American Tour - in which there will be very little botany but a good deal about those physical problems which affect plant distribution in the part as well as

the present - But it has been
uphill work, for I have been far from
well, coughing till my head ached
intolerably, & altogether below par -
All the while I have been devouring
that very remarkable memoir by your
astronomer Langley on Solar Radiation
I think that I wrote to you about it
since then I have been able to borrow it
and am full of admiration. It seems to
me one of the best & most solid pieces
of work in physics that has been accomplished
for a long time. Keen criticism
of the work done by his predecessors &
by himself - Extraordinary care -
perseverance & enterprise - philosophic
judgment & caution - all present -
I have been trying to use his results
& have covered pages with calculations
most of which on close scrutiny I have
had to reject - the net result so
far as my book goes will be a
little table in the appendix which

at the best will be no more
than a rough approximation

Harker has been putting himself about
the Linnean Society here which
has fallen into the hands of rather
inferior men - He has been anxious
to bring about the election of Dyer
as President - He would be the right
man, & would I have no doubt -
be able to improve the society
very much, but the Brit. Mus. people
hate him & his he is resolved not
to have a contest & will not be
nominated - For himself he is right
but it is a pity that things should
be so -

After further delays owing to
my being laid up the parcel of
S. American plants is at last
on its way to you

My wife joins in kind greetings
to you & Mrs Gray
I am getting quite right
again Ever yours Frank